



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

SEP 16 2010

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: E-19J

Philip Forst  
Environmental Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration  
Galtier Plaza, Suite 500  
380 Jackson Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

**RE: Comment on the FEIS for US 14 from Owatonna to Dodge Center, Dodge and Steele Counties, Minnesota, CEQ #20100320**

Dear Mr. Forst:

In accordance with United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, we have reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) regarding the highway project for US 14 from Owatonna to Dodge Center, in Dodge and Steele Counties, Minnesota.

EPA has been a participatory agency in this project from early scoping and most recently made comments on a draft FEIS on December 17, 2009. Remaining concerns we raised in that letter included 1) encouraging localities to use Smart Growth practices and Green Stormwater Management when planning and zoning for the expected growth associated with this project; 2) clarification of noise decibel values related to anticipated impacts; and 3) mitigation for tree loss associated with the project.

The above concerns have been addressed in the final FEIS document. Based upon these observations, we commend those efforts to reduce environmental impacts and improve the document.

We appreciate the opportunity to again review and comment on this project. Should you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact me or my staff member Norm West at 312 – 353 – 5692 or [west.norman@epa.gov](mailto:west.norman@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenneth A. Westlake  
Chief, NEPA Implementation Section  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Cc: Heather Lukes, Project Manager, MnDOT, District 6  
2900 48<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Rochester, Minnesota 55901